

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05414 131650Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
ICAIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W
-----118520 131656Z /47

O R 131623Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2524
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5414

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: RESPONSE TO SAG MESSAGE

REF: USUN 3583 AND 3584

1. PRETORIA FIVE MET TODAY, SEPTEMBER 13, TO REVIEW
THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE SAG MESSAGE
OF SEPT. 12 (REFTELS).

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE LETTER TO BOTHA (USUN 3584), THE
GROUP PROPOSES THAT THE WORDS "WE HAVE" BE DELETED FROM
THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 SO THAT THE SENTENCE WOULD
BEGIN: "AS EXPLAINED IN THE..." THE PRETORIA FIVE ALSO
CONSIDERED THAT THE FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 2, BY BEING
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DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY AT THE SAG, MIGHT STIMULATE UNNECESSARY
SOUTH AFRICAN IRRITATION, WHICH COULD BE AVERTED BY
MODIFYING THE SENTENCE TO READ: "THE TIME HAS COME FOR
A FINAL EXPRESSION OF THE POLITICAL WILL OF ALL PARTIES
TO BRING ABOUT THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED INDEPENDENCE
OF NAMIBIA." THE FIVE BRIEFLY CONSIDERED SOME MINOR
CHANGES IN THE LETTER TO BOTHA PROPOSED BY LONDON, WHICH

PROPOSALS WE UNDERSTAND WERE TO BE RAISED ALSO WITH THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK. THE GROUP HAD NO STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THOSE PROPOSED CHANGES ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BUT DID NOT ADOPT THEM.

3. CONCERNING THE AIDE MEMOIRE (USUN 3583), THE PRETORIA FIVE AGREED TO RECOMMEND SOME LIMITED MODIFICATION OF PARA 4. BECAUSE OF THE CLEAR IMPLICATION OF POSSIBLE LATER INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF UNTAG, A POINT ABOUT WHICH THE SAG MESSAGE OF SEPT 12 HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN, WE SUGGEST THAT THE WORDS "THE MINIMUM" BE DELETED FROM THE FIFTH SENTENCE OF PARA 4 SO THAT THE PERTINENT PORTION OF THE SENTENCE WOULD READ: "...THE SIZE OF THE FORCE IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE TASKS..." SINCE THE TASKS OF UNTAG ARE INDEED MANY AND EXTENSIVE, AND IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE SENSE OF ARGUING WITH THE SAG, WE SUGGEST THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4 BE REVISED TO READ: "HAVING REGARD TO THE MAGNITUDE OF THESE TASKS, A FORCE OF THIS SIZE COULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE REGARDED AS AN OCCUPYING FORCE OR AS AN OPERATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE."

4. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR PROPOSED THAT THE WORDS "WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT..." BE DELETED FROM THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 5 TO MAKE IT MORE PERSUASIVE. THE GROUP HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IF THE FIVE ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE UNQUALIFIED ASSERTION: "YOUR VIEWS ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPOSITION WILL BE SOUGHT IN ADVANCE OF ANY FINAL DECISION ON THIS ISSUE." WE AGREED AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH MIGHT BE TO INTRODUCE THE SENTENCE WITH THE WORDS: "WE CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR VIEWS..."

5. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION TO PROPOSE, THE PRETORIA FIVE ALSO WANT TO FLAG THE PROBABILITY THAT PARA ONE OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE CEASEFIRE DECLARATION WILL BE A STICKING POINT. THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL NO DOUBT ARGUE THAT THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND THE UNDERTAKING IN THEIR SEPT 12 MESSAGE SHOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT. THEY WILL VERY LIKELY RESIST STRONGLY THE IDEA OF SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVING EQUAL STATUS IN THIS MATTER.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
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